

21 Sept 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR FLIGHT NURSE (FN) COURSE UTILIZATION AND TRAINING
WORKSHOP (U&TW) ATTENDEES

AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION TECHNICIAN (AET) COURSE
U&TW ATTENDEES

FROM: USAFSAM/ATR
2601 Louis Bauer Drive
Brooks City-Base, TX 78235-5130

SUBJECT: Flight Nurse Course and AE Technician Course U&TW Teleconference Minutes

1. The Flight Nurse and AE Technician course Utilization and Training Workshop teleconference was held on 21 September 2005 from 1000 to 1156 AM.

2. Attendees/Teleconference Participants:

Col Naomi Boss AMC/DA33
Lt Col Bridget Larew AF/XOOT
Lt Col Douglas Cook USAFSAM/ATR
Lt Col Denise Augustine AMC/A37VM (For Maj. Mary O'Loughlin)
Lt Col Lisa D. DeDecker USTC/SG
Maj. Tom Carney AFRC/DOT
Maj John Baer USAFSAM/ATR
Maj Megela Campbell USAFSAM/ATR
Capt Jared Mort USAFSAM/ATR
MSgt James Larouche AMC/A37TP
MSgt Patrick J. McEneany Jr. PACAF/DOT
MSgt Kenneth E. Quattlebaum ANG/XO
MSgt Scott Curran USAFSAM/ATR
SSgt Daniel Paxton USAFSAM/ATR
SSgt Kelly Watson USAFSAM/ATR

3. Members Not Present:

Col Stephen Prizer AMC/SGN
Maj Mary O'Loughlin AMC/A37TP
Maj Kathleen Flarity AF/SGCN
Maj Crystal Robinson USAFE/DOT
Capt Elena Schlenker PACAF/DOT (TDY)
Capt Scott Russell 142 AES (ANG)
CMSgt Richard Lewis AF/SGCN
CMSgt James Brady 22 AF/DOT

TSgt Augustine Ortiz, Jr. USAFE/DOT

4. Review of U&TW Minutes: Lt Col Cook led a brief overview of days 1-3, without any comments from the participants. The original U&TW minutes will remain as written.

5. Follow-up items: Lt Col Cook, Lt Col Larew and MSgt Curran lead discussions on U&TW follow-up items.

5.1. Develop Task Lists for FN and AET curriculums. Deliver one week prior to teleconference (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran, OCR: Maj O'Loughlin) – Completed Air Staff review. **Item closed.**

5.2. Discussion on proficiency code changes for topics that were changed from “B” to “3C”. The recommended proficiency code changes will require an associated proficiency examination. This will increase the number of formal course evaluations from five to ten. Lt Col Larew voiced concern that we are incurring additional testing, expecting a proficiency code of “expert”, and discounting unit level training incurred during the upgrade process. Lt Col Cook voiced concern that 10 evaluations for a 19 day course equates to students being tested, on average, every other day. This led to a brief discussion regarding USAFSAM's policy on test failures (student is academically disenrolled following two test failures) and the possible increase in student wash-out rates. **Item closed.**

5.3. Changes to course post-U&TW.

5.3.1. CRAF/PLS loading exercise added to curriculum. Currently experiencing maintenance issues with PLS wheels with increased use. (OPR: AMC SGL, OCR: Lt Col DeDecker). **Item closed.**

5.3.2. Two-hour Medical/Trauma Patient Assessment lecture/demonstration has been added. Will increase length of instruction to accommodate performance examinations. (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran, OCR: Maj O'Loughlin). **Item closed.**

5.3.2.1. All nursing consideration lectures will be categorized as either “Medical” or “Trauma”. The proficiency examination “Assessment of the Medical Patient” will conclude the Medical grouping of lectures. The proficiency examination “Assessment of the Trauma Patient” will conclude the Trauma grouping of lectures.

5.3.2.2. The Patient Assessment lectures follow TNCC guidelines. The cardiac arrest lecture follows AHA guidelines.

5.3.3. Two-hour Neurological Exam/Assessment lecture added. Will increase length of instruction to accommodate performance examination. (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran, OCR: Maj O'Loughlin). **Item closed.**

5.3.4. Two-hour In-flight Cardiac Arrest Procedures added (follows AHA guidelines). Will increase length of instruction to accommodate performance examination. The

current EPC proficiency check (Zoll CCT, PTLOX/MOST, Manual Resuscitators, and Impact Suction) may be incorporated with the In-flight Cardiac Arrest proficiency examination. (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran, OCR: Maj O'Loughlin). **Item closed.**

5.4. Mobile Oxygen Storage Tank (replacement for PTLOX), lesson plan is under initial design and implementation. **Item closed.**

5.5. Lt Col Cook explained the curriculum design process and associated time requirements for the implementation of major course changes. He emphasized the new proficiency code changes will increase the amount of detail covered in the classroom and requirement for each student to return demonstration during the proficiency examination. These changes may necessitate a substantial increase the length of the course. Alternative solutions include changing proficiency codes to a "high" knowledge level and "lower" proficiency level (e.g., change "3C" proficiency codes to a "C"). This would remove the requirement for a proficiency examination. EDC 1 Jan 2006. (OPR Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran) **Item open.**

5.6. Lt Col Larew discussed her research findings associated with the cost and funding source for making ACLS a course prerequisite (OPRs: AFRC and ANG DOOT, OCR: HQ XOOT, AF SGN). Lt Col Cook reviewed ACLS and TNCC currency data for nurses previously attending the FN course (see atch 1). After extensive discussion, the motion to make ACLS a course prerequisite for all nurses was dismissed. Currency in ACLS will continue to be a prerequisite for active duty nurses and remain a strongly encouraged FN course prerequisite for ARC nurses. The U&TWs recommended the proficiency code for the In-flight Cardiac Arrest Procedure be changed to a "3C". Therefore, all students will have to independently identify life-threatening dysrhythmias (V-Fib, V-Tach, Asystole, and PEA) and demonstrate ability to manage a case scenario utilizing resources normally available on an AE mission. EDC 1 Jan 2006. Awaiting further input and guidance. **Item open (referred to AMC/SG, AF/SG)**

5.7. Determine impact of making TNCC a pre-requisite/sustainment (OPR: AFRC and ANG DOOT OCR: HQ XOOT, AF SGN). It was decided that TNCC is a desirable (not mandatory) prerequisite. **Item closed.**

5.8. Is endotracheal intubation within the scope of practice for a RN? (OPR: Maj Flarity) Currently, USAFSAM does not teach Nurses endotracheal intubation. However, basic airway management (including patient positioning and use of basic airway adjuncts) is taught. Students are also taught how to assess, manage, and secure an endotracheal tube S/P intubation. Follow-up required only if current policy is changed to allow nurses to intubate. **Item closed.**

5.9. FN Job Inventory: Between 22 - 24 Aug, USAFSAM and the Occupational Measurement Squadron (OMS) designed the first ever FN Job Inventory. The OMS will present the product at least four aeromedical evacuation squadrons for revision before our distributing to the career field. Preliminary data should be received within six months from initiation of final product. **Item Open.**

5.10. Make floor loading a stand-alone lecture (OPR: USAFSAM). MSgt Curran led the discussion on this topic. Many participants felt it necessary that students be proficient at floor loading prior to graduating the course. Because USAFSAM has a C-130 training platform, participants agreed to keep C-130 floor loading at a “3c” proficiency code. Floor loading techniques for other airframes will employ a knowledge based objective taught to a “B” proficiency level. The “3c” proficiency code for C-130 floor loading will require a proficiency examination. **Item closed.**

5.11. Retirement of C-141 airframe (OPR: Col Boss, OCR: AFRC DOOM): The training requirement for the C-141 may extend to Feb 2006. The FN and AET curriculums will include C-141 instruction until definitive direction is received from AMC. EDC 1 Jan 2006 **Open item.**

5.12. Add CRAF/PLS loading exercise. The exercise has been implemented into the courses as recommended. **Item closed.**

5.13. Do the FN and AET course curriculums meet the objectives of the C-130 CBT? If so, can completion of CBT at unit level be waived (OPR: AMC A37T, OCR: AFRC DOOT). A resolution to this item was not reached. EDC 21 Oct 2005. **Item referred to OPR for resolution.**

6. New items

6.1. MSgt Curran briefed participants that the FY '06, the FN and AET courses will begin after the SERE course. This schedule change is reflected on the FN/AET and ETCA web sites. MSgt Curran communicated the possibility of having students report to USAFSAM one day earlier to allow for inprocessing for the SERE, FN/AET, and the Aerospace Physiology courses. Reporting one day early should cut the total number of days students are TDY; beginning one day early will eliminate one weekend of per-diem. MSgt Curran will coordinate between SERE, FN/AET and Altitude Physiology. (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran). EDC 30 Oct 2005. **Item open.**

6.2. MSgt Curran relayed that the USAFSAM Registrar has received 100 AET seat requests from AFRC and 36 AET seat requests from ANG for FY '06. He reminded the participants that the FN and AET courses each have a maximum capacity of 30 students per class (6 iterations per year). **Item closed.**

6.3. MSgt Curran communicated that the USAFSAM AE Branch has recently seen an increase in the number of requests to provide equipment, facility, and instructor support to aeromedical evacuation squadrons' sustainment training endeavors. These training events place an additional stress on our equipment, aircraft trainers, and the instructor cadre. USAFSAM asks that future requests be coordinated through the MAJCOM at least 30 days prior to training. USAFSAM will provide request format to MAJCOMS for dissemination to the units. (OPR: Lt Col Cook/MSgt Curran). EDC 30 Oct 2005. **Item open.**

6.4. MSgt Curran asked the question to AMC of whether or not “already qualified” fliers really need to attend this course, possibly taking seats away from new students. Failing the AET or FN course does not disqualify a crewmember who was previously qualified; that student can return to his/her unit and continue flying as a qualified crewmember. Since a qualified crewmember faces no repercussions for failing one of these formal courses, the question was raised as to how this would differ if an AE FTU existed. The response was that guidance in AFI 11-202 would apply. MSgt Curran asked why the community would does not currently apply AF guidance to its own formal school. EDC 30 Oct 2005 (OPR: AF XOOT, AMC A37) **Item open.**

7. Conclusion:

7.1. No follow-up was announced at the conclusion of this teleconference.

7.2. The nursing considerations block of the course will be re-written to include all new lectures and proficiency checks.

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